

blazed the trail in providing emergency services for residents across Delta County. Venetia was instrumental in upgrading Rampart's ambulance services to advanced life support services which enabled Rampart to provide vital life-saving care including defibrillation, airway management and medication. In a rural area like Delta County these life support services often make the difference between life and death in emergency situations.

Emergency medical service was more than just a business for Venetia, it was her passion. She was always eager to learn more and to advance the field farther. She was the director for Rampart, but was also a paramedic for the company. She was an assistant to the Delta County medical examiner and taught emergency medical technician and paramedic courses throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Venetia's hard work can be found throughout the community. She implemented code alert teams in area schools—one of the first communities in the state to do so—and taught CPR training and emergency response tactics. She was a founding member of the Delta County Emergency Preparedness Committee and served on the Upper Peninsula EMS Board of Directors. She initiated and financially supported the Save-a-Heart Foundation, which put automated external defibrillators, AED, in every fire truck, police car and school in Escanaba.

Given all her work it is only fitting that Venetia was the first recipient of the Extraordinary People/Extraordinary Service EMS Leadership Award from the Michigan Emergency Medical Services System and Trauma System.

Venetia's involvement in the community extended well beyond her EMS work. She supported the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, participated in the Rotary Club and the Public Health of Delta and Menominee Counties and was an active member of All Saints Catholic Church.

Madam Speaker, Venetia has touched the lives of countless people around her and her absence will be felt by many. She built Rampart EMS into a successful business all while creating a close family atmosphere. She dedicated her life to improving emergency services and saving lives in Delta County, across Michigan and our Nation. I have seen first hand her warmth, her generous spirit and her enthusiasm for her work. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the work and the life of my friend Venetia Bryers.

**NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL
CENTER RECEIVES THE GOLD
PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for being recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) with the Gold Performance Achievement Award.

Recipients of the Get with the Guidelines Gold Performance Achievement Award from

the American Heart Association (AHA) must demonstrate a minimum of 85 percent compliance with the Coronary Artery Disease treatment guidelines for heart failure. Newark Beth Israel has exceeded the minimum and is receiving a Performance Award for the second consecutive year.

Newark Beth Israel was the first hospital in New Jersey to perform a heart transplant. Since then, the Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program has evolved into one of the nation's most active and respected centers. Newark Beth Israel is also the only Medicare-certified medical center in the state performing heart transplants. The center provides the most technologically advanced medical services, equipment, and research, protecting and improving the health of the region.

Newark Beth Israel also responds to the needs of the community. In addition to an annual health fair for community members, Newark Beth Israel sponsors health screenings free of cost for members of the Newark community throughout the year.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great honor to acknowledge such an outstanding hospital. The administration and staff members of Newark Beth Israel go beyond the call of duty to provide quality service to the citizens of New Jersey and beyond.

**REMEMBERING A LIFE OF HEROIC
SERVICE**

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Seaman Garlen Eslick and his service to our nation.

Mr. Eslick lived in Amarillo, Texas. As an 18 year old farm boy, he joined the Navy. Just months later, on December 7, 1941, Seaman Eslick was aboard the USS Oklahoma as it was attacked in Pearl Harbor. In the galley at the time of the attack, he was a powder handler for the ship's 14-inch guns. Making his way to his battle station four decks below, Seaman Eslick and a few others helped a wounded soldier through a hatch. After the Oklahoma took heavy machine-gun fire and five torpedoes, the ship rolled; knocking Seaman Eslick unconscious in his compartment. He awoke in total darkness to rising water as the only survivor in that compartment. Hours later another sailor carrying a light told him of other survivors several compartments over. The two dove from compartment to compartment, searching for a way out for themselves and the 12 others they found. After 28 hours in the oil-soaked compartment, Seaman Eslick was one of the 31 sailors rescued and returned to active duty after a four-day stay on a hospital ship.

While assigned to the USS Saratoga, he survived a torpedo attack from a submarine. Later, on the USS John Hancock he saw action in Leyte and Manila in the Philippine Islands, even weathering a typhoon and surviving a kamikaze attack, and taking part in operations at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Seaman Eslick was awarded a Purple Heart for his heroic actions and the injuries he sustained on December 7, 1941 and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin for his four years of service.

Seaman Garlen Eslick never expected special attention for his service during WWII. At the unveiling of the USS Oklahoma Memorial in 2002, Seaman Eslick said "it's always important to remember the ones we've lost and those who are still with us."

On Monday, February 8, Garlen passed away, leaving his wife Betty of 65 years, their four children, 12 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. It is with gratitude for his service and admiration of his heroism that I hope we all will remember Seaman Garlen Eslick, his comrades, and their service to protect our freedom.

**HONORING RENEE GALLIHER FOR
BEING NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF
THE YEAR**

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute Renee Galliher of Mocksville, North Carolina. Renee was recently named firefighter of the year at the Cornatzer-Dulin fire department in Mocksville.

She is the first woman in the fire department's almost 60-year history to be named firefighter of the year. This is no small accomplishment and I am proud to recognize Renee for her dedicated service to the public.

As this month is Women's History Month, I think it is also very appropriate to single out North Carolina women like Renee who are making a significant difference in their local communities.

Today millions of women across America like Renee are making positive contributions to their families, their communities and their country. It is a true honor to have countless women like Renee as constituents and to share their stories of success with my colleagues and the American people.

ELIZABETH SMITH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the lifetime accomplishments of my good friend, Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Smith, who retired last week from the American Federation of Teachers, AFT.

Bringing opportunity and respect to working men and women across America was the driving force in Liz's more than 4 decades of public service. And this commitment never waned. Workers fighting for fair wages, high-quality healthcare and a secure retirement always had a strong ally in Liz Smith. She fought for them every day.

Liz began her professional career working for two of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. She served as chief of staff to Representative James O'Hara of Michigan, and later as legislative director to Representative DALE KILDEE of Michigan; both benefited greatly from her energy and commitment. In those positions, Liz worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of constituents were heard in